

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CEA-01 STR-04 SAM-01

AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00

USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SS-15 /110 W

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R 211247Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8890

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0820

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT GJ UK

SUBJ: GAIRY'S WAR OF WORDS WITH BRITISH

REFS: (A) BTN 0772 (B) POS 1127

DEPARTMENT PASS USOAS

1. REFTELS REPORTED ATTACKS BY GRENADIAN PRIME MINISTER ERIC M. GAIRY ON HMG AT KINGSTON COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE AND AT PORT OF SPAIN ECLA CONFERENCE, IN WHICH GAIRY ALLEGED ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF HIS COUNTRY BY BRITISH DURING 190-YEAR PERIOD OF COLONIAL RULE AND ACCUSED HMG OF "ECONOMIC CRUELTY." PRESENT MESSAGE REPORTS FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

2. IN GRENADA, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HERBERT BLAIZE REACTED TO PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KINGSTON BY LAYING BLAME FOR GRENADA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AT GAIRY'S

DOOR. HE STATED THAT HE HAD WARNED GAIRY FOUR YEARS BEFORE THAT GRENADA WAS HEADED FOR FINANCIAL DISASTER AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS STARTED WHEN "MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS (WERE) THROWN DOWN THE DRAIN ON EXPO 69." REFERRING TO GAIRY'S VERBAL CONFRONTATION WITH WILSON AT KINGSTON, BLAIZE DECLARED THAT PM HAD "DISGRACED ALL GRENADIANS." HE ALSO SENT A CABLE TO JAMAICAN PM MANLEY, THE CONFERENCE HOST, PROCLAIMING GAIRY'S PERFORMANCE "UNREPRESENTATIVE OF GRENADIAN SENTIMENT."

3. BEFORE LEAVING THE CARIBBEAN FOR THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IN WASHINGTON, GAIRY SAID THE GRENADIAN CABINET HAD GIVEN ITS APPROVAL TO HIS TAKING GRENADA'S CASE AGAINST HMG TO INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD ALSO PRESENT CASE TO OAS AND UN.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH 1974 POLITICAL TROUBLES UNDOUBTEDLY DID SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO ECONOMY, GAIRY'S OWN FINANCIAL MISMANAGEMENT AND FAILURE TAKE ACTION TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN HIS GOVERNMENT AND PLACE THE COUNTRY ON A SOUNDER ECONOMIC AND FISCAL FOOTING ARE CHIEF FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR GRENADA'S CURRENT PLIGHT. GRENADIANS BECOMING INCREASINGLY AWARE OF FACTS, AND GAIRY'S USE OF HMG AS SCAPEGOAT IS NOT LIKELY TO CONVINCE MANY. BLAIZE'S CHARGE THAT EXPO, 69 A MINI-EXPOSITION HOSTED BY GOG, WAS BEGINNING OF GRENADA'S FINANCIAL TROUBLES NOT WITHOUT FOUNDATION SINCE MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT PROJECT WAS WASTEFUL AND COSTLY PRESTIGE EXERCISE THAT BROUGHT GRENADA FEW BENEFITS IN TOURISM OR TRADE SECTORS. END COMMENT

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT ADVISE US WHETHER GAIRY RAISED ISSUE OF BRITISH "ECONOMIC CRUELTY TO GRENADA" AT RECENTLY CONCLUDED OASGA.
BRITTON

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Message Attributes

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